



The Hartford News

Dec. 23, 2020 – Jan. 7, 2021



A Note to Our Readers

The *Hartford News* will not be published next week due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The next edition of the paper will be published on Thursday, January 7. Thanks for all your support in 2020 and all the best in 2021!

New Leadership at African American Alliance

The Greater Hartford African American Alliance (GHAAA) elected a new slate of officers at its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 12. The new team promises a return to the original mission and vision of the association's founders.

GHAAA Members elected J. Stan McCauley, Founder and Chief of Operations of AccessTV.org as its new President. rJo Winch, of rDs Classique Creations and former Hartford City Council President was elected Vice President.

The new leadership team began their one-year term effective December 19, 2020.



Stan McCauley

The following were also elected to GHAAA leadership roles:

- **Treasurer:** Attorney Kenneth Kennedy, Assistant Attorney General, Connecticut Attorney General's Office and former Hartford City Council Member
- **Recording Secretary:** Ronald Simpson, Investigator, Connecticut Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Nadine

Continued on page 7



City of Hartford Toy Drive

Lieutenant Marisol Rodriguez-Velez of the Hartford Police Department helps Irving Perez (center) pick out the gift of his choice at the City of Hartford Toy Drive Distribution on Saturday, December 19, at the Learning Corridor. Looking on at left are Irving's mother, Angela, and brother, Hansel. The toys, which had been collected by city employees over the last few weeks were also distributed at Martin Luther King Elementary School on Ridgefield Street on Saturday. (Hart photo)

Hartford...Once Upon a Time



This 1965 photo shows Downtown Hartford recovering from a major snowstorm. It also highlights the retail powerhouse Hartford was at the time, long before shopping malls and "big-box" stores. The view is looking north from the corner of Main and State Streets. G Fox, Sage Allen's and Mary Jane Shoes are among the stores at right. At left is J.J. Newberry's, Jupiter and Corvette's. Downtown Hartford once contained over 100 retail stores, now barely a dozen are left. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)

NEWS BRIEFS

Library Closed, Reopens December 28

Hartford Public Library has ceased on-site operations at its Downtown Library through December 27. While the physical space is closed, online resources will still be available and library staff will be working remotely to answer your calls and address your emails. Contact-free service at all locations will also be suspended. The Downtown Library will reopen to the public on Monday, December 28, for its normal operating hours and contact-free service at all locations will resume. To use HPL's virtual services, go to hplct.org.

Home Heating Assistance

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households, specifically those households whose income falls at or below 60 percent of the state median income. To access energy assistance through CEAP you must make an appointment with the CEAP application site in your area. If you need help paying for your primary source of heat text CTWARM to 898211 to find a CEAP application site near you. For more information on utility assistance check out 211ct.org's Utility Assistance Page at uwc.211ct.org/category/search/utility-assistance/.

MDC Offers Help with Overdue Bills

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is working to help those with overdue water bills. To qualify for water utility assistance, customers must have a shut-off notice, have no water utility service, need assistance with making a payment to prevent a shut-off, or have a past due balance of 30 days or more. The maximum grant amount is \$500. Applicants must provide a shutoff notice or water bill that is 30 days past due plus payment history and income documentation. MDC customers can apply at www.operationfuel.org/gethelp or to locate an Operation Fuel bank nearby in the Online Fuel Bank Finder. You can also call 2-1-1 to find a fuel bank near you.



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MaxRev Toy Give-Away

On Saturday, staff and friends of MaxRev Motorsport Performance on Tolland Street in East Hartford handed out over 400 toys to local youngsters at Pope Park. MaxRev employee Eduardo Flores played Santa Claus for the youngsters. After finishing up in Hartford, the group left for New Britain to hand out even more toys. (Hart photo)

NAUGHTY OR NICE?

When is it wrong to do the right thing?

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

“If you see something, say something.” We read and hear that phrase all the time. Those six words became a common part of the lexicon after 911 in regard to reporting suspected terrorists, but now refer to other questionable behaviors, such as a strong feeling that someone may be a victim of domestic violence or child abuse, or a perpetrator of criminal activity. Rather than intervening ourselves, we’re advised to report it to a teacher, social worker, or medical professional and in some cases, the police. In the first two situations, speaking up is seen as an act of caring and is appreciated. It also makes the person who tells feel that they’ve done a good thing. But when it comes to crime, a veil of silence usually descends. No one in the community has seen or heard anything. Why? Because they fear being branded as a “snitch”.

That word had a very different meaning back in the day. A snitch was the kid who raised her hand and said to the teacher “Johnny was throwing spitballs while you were out of the room!” Or in the workplace, when an employee spread the news that the boss was having an affair with his executive assistant. With the advent of movies and TV shows about organized crime—think “Goodfellas” and “The Sopranos”—where the snitch often ended up seriously injured or dead—it trickled down to urban areas where people feared that telling could land them in the same situation or, at best, a pariah not to be trusted. To be an informant is to risk a lot, and even if the crime one sees is detrimental to the safety and quality of life in their neighborhood, they stay mum.



Here in Hartford, as in other cities, there’s been a notable increase in vehicle break-ins this year, and particularly now at holiday time when a lot of people have gifts in their cars. Locked doors make no difference because the thieves just smash the windows to get at the loot. Sadly, I’ve heard of three such instances this past week and all of them on the same residential street in the North End. Even sadder is that those they steal from may have very little themselves, or that the items stolen were intended as donations to those in need. In social media posts and comments about these incidents most city residents are very supportive of the victims of these crimes. Yet others—not as many—condemn the call for more policing of the area and for information that might help identify who’s doing the dirty work. Part of that is the distrust of HPD that’s ramped up a lot since the beginning of the year because of the perceived targeting of men of color as criminals; I get that. And the rest of it is about the hatred of those who snitch—

the lowest of the low. But it’s obvious that most people of all races are fed up with this heartbreaking and sometimes costly and devastating crime, and want it to be curbed or ended. In its way, it is indeed another form of violence. The only way that can happen is if the city puts a system in place to solidly assure the anonymity and safety of those who want to tell what they know but are afraid to do so. Otherwise, the good citizens will continue to suffer loss and the bad actors will always come out on top. It takes guts and integrity to do the right thing. Can we all make that a resolution for the new year?



Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

So, What’s The Plan?

With hope of the virus fading away this spring, is there an overall plan to bring Hartford back? With restaurants closing and retailers on the edge, are the “Powers That Be” planning a rebound?

Come this June, most healthcare officials believe that the majority of people in the Greater Hartford region will have taken the shot and, hopefully, the curse of the Coronavirus will start to fade away.

salsa, rap – you name it. Let’s tap into this treasure trove of talent and let the good times roll!

TWO: Use the wise words of local historian Bill Hosley to put Hartford on the map as a destination for history buffs. There’s a whole channel on TV devoted to history, there must be a demand to see our nation’s heritage in person. Put all our sites together into a package and sell it to the tour companies

Make Hartford the “Nashville of the North.”
Starving musicians will work for very modest fees, just to resume the careers they love. Hire them!

We sense a tremendous built-up desire for families and friends to get together and do things, with less restrictions – almost like the good old days, when Corona was just a beer.

So, since we haven’t heard of any planning or direction in this area as of yet, let’s be so bold to make the following suggestions.

ONE: Make Hartford the “Nashville of the North.” Starving musicians will work for very modest fees, just to resume the careers they love. Hire them! The State, the City, the Hartford Foundation and major corporations all should pony up and help pay for live music at a variety of venues (the Old State House, Bushnell Park, Pratt Street, restaurants, etc). Hartford has so many talented musicians in a wide variety of styles – jazz, folk, rock,

(those that are still in business), senior groups, school groups, children’s camps, church groups, etc. Hartford has a lot to offer, let’s offer it!

The State of Connecticut should play a big role in this by properly funding its tourism operation with an emphasis on urban historical sites.

If we had our druthers, we’d like to see Connecticut go back to the smaller tourism districts we once had. Years ago these districts worked well and largely because they tapped into local pride, garnered much volunteer support.

Hotels, restaurants, attractions, sports teams, events all create jobs and add to quality of life. A modest investment in promoting them as packages will bring life back to cities like Hartford (and the surrounding towns). Let’s get at it!

First Night Hartford Goes Online!

This year, First Night Hartford will be turning its 32nd annual New Year’s celebration into a robust TV broadcast, Facebook and Youtube livestream, and live Zoom work-shops.

First Night Hartford 2021 will not be hosting any in-person events but will be embarking on the creation of an innovative virtual experience to be held on Thursday, December 31, 2020.

With the hope of bringing Greater Hartford’s communities safely together to ring in the new year, First Night Hartford will create a broadcast and livestream experience alongside dozens of community partners, artists, and a local video production company.

First Night has also announced its 2021 button design artist, Lindaluz

Carrillo, a local urban artist, graphic designer and prolific muralist.

First Night Hartford Party Kits are now available! The kits were created in collaboration with

Hartford Prints! The First Night Party Kit is a fun way for the whole family to ring in the New Year! They include a coloring book, party masks, temporary tattoos, crayons, and an activity book with the following: word search,

crossword puzzle, madlibs, connect the dots, maze, matching, and scavenger hunt.

First Night Hartford 2021 buttons are also now available and are a great way to support First Night Hartford. To order you buttons and party kits, go to: <https://first-nighthartford.org/buttons-party-kit/first-night-hartford-party-kit>.



THE HARTFORD NEWS

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Supporting Hartford’s Community Visionaries

A little help can go a long way

BY DONNA SWARR

This year, you may have received a request for a donation from the Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery, Free Center, The Center for Latino Progress, Transport Hartford or Kamora’s Cultural Corner. They all qualified for matching grants from Sustainability CT, whose mission is “to build community and local economy.”

Sustainability CT is partnering with Patronicity as their crowdfunding platform. Patronicity is a great fit for small organizations. It’s a safe and flexible way to allow people to donate via the web, send checks, or give cash directly to the organization seeking your support.

Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery tested the waters and held a very small fundraiser, and received a matching grant to do landscaping and tree planting this year. When I spoke to Carey Shea from the organization, she told me that they’re hoping to do some restoration work on the Zion Hill Cottage at the corner of Ward and Zion Streets in the future.

Zoe Chatfield shared the Free Center’s experience with Sustainability CT’s grant process. It is flexible and provides the freedom to allow funds to be used in the most beneficial way for the organization and the project. She felt that Sustainability CT grants provide an opportunity to directly support members of our community that have a vision that will make Hartford a better place to live. The Free Center has a long-term vision for community

gardens and programming around its building. Their fundraising effort included the resources to support Phase 1 and 2, materials to build the raised beds, as well as hiring Lauren Little to educate participants about urban gardening. They also provided an art activity that included a plant to bring home, and hope to implement a community garden program this coming spring.

Anthony Cherolis raised funds to support the Northeast Multimodal and Transit Summit this past fall. In addition to the online summit, walk and bike audits were organized, as well as a bicycle

tour of Complete Streets projects in both Hartford and New Haven.

Kamora’s Cultural Corner’s project was to build the Sterling Street Sanctuary. It includes a labyrinth and nature reserve as a contemplative space for the community.

During a Sustainability CT Zoom meeting, I heard her share the importance of the community

supporting these projects – not big donations, but \$5, \$10, \$15 donations from a lot of people. This ensures that the community really backs the project.

In 2021, you may be asked to support visionary projects. Please keep in mind that they are asking you to help make them a reality. If you would like to see more Sustainability CT projects, go to <https://www.patronicity.com/sustainablect>.



Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery, shown here during a planting earlier in the year, are among Hartford’s community organizations that have qualified for a matching grant from Sustainability CT. (Hartford News file photo)



Max Cares Food Give-Away

The Max Restaurant Group runs some of the fanciest restaurants in the region. But on Saturday, staff from the Max restaurants and other volunteers set up shop in an empty parking lot off Main Street in Downtown Hartford, just across the street from Dunkin’ Donuts Stadium, and began handing out “Max-quality” holiday meals to those in need. Most people arrived for the Max Cares Foundation’s food give-away in cars and a few others on foot, but Jeff Gaston (above) of Hartford buzzed into the event on his motorized wheelchair and, after chatting with the volunteers (including Maura Horan, Carol McCabe and Lisa Ord, left) for a bit, buzzed right back out again with his holiday dinner sitting on his lap. The Max Cares Foundation’s Roasts for the Holidays campaign has been providing holiday dinners to thousands of Greater Hartford and Greater Springfield individuals and families via soup kitchens and shelters since 2017. Acknowledging the enormous impact the pandemic has had on our communities in 2020, the foundation has doubled its matching gift commitment to \$20K in the hopes of serving more families experiencing food insecurity. On Saturday, the group prepared over 500 meals for those in need. (Hart photo)

READ US ONLINE!

The Hartford News is now available online! Go to HartfordPublications.com and click on current edition – or find us on Facebook. New editions are posted Wednesday evening.

“Next year all our troubles will be out of sight...”

Five simple and free ways to spread kindness and cheer during holiday time 2020

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

It’s been a long, long road from March to December. For many of us it’s hard to get into the spirit of the season. The traditional gatherings will only be shadows of what we’ve always come to anticipate, and a sort of melancholy air will undoubtedly surround that last week of the year. But take heart and follow your heart by doing a few little things that can brighten those days both for you and for others who could also use a lift.

- 1) Smile and say “hello” to strangers. Pass a few words, even if they’re merely “Happy holidays”, “Merry Christmas”, or “Happy New Year”. If you want to take it a step further, it wouldn’t hurt to add that you like their hat, or that their dog is cute, or any other sincere and friendly remark. (Be sure you’re wearing your mask!)

- 2) Leave a note of season’s greet-

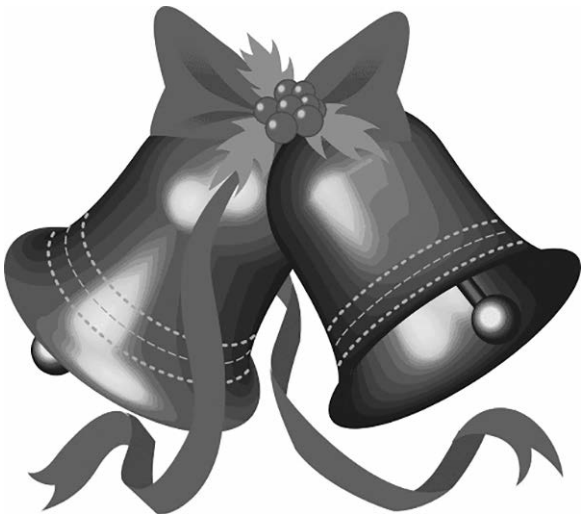
ings at a neighbor’s door or under the windshield wiper of their car—if it’s not snowing—and be sure to sign it or identify yourself in some other way. You could also attach it to a

and that little bit of recognition means a lot to them. The same goes for any mail carriers or delivery people you may encounter.

- 4) If you see a person, particularly one who is elderly or disabled, trying to navigate a snow-covered or icy crosswalk or corner, offer your assistance with a smile and leave them with some kind and warmhearted words.

- 5) You can always send a text, but it’s even better if you have time on your hands to call

up old friends or acquaintances you may not have talked with for quite a while, and give them some (cheerful, please) conversation. And if they live alone, then those minutes are well-spent and even more meaningful for both of you.



small plastic bag holding a few pieces of wrapped candy or a tiny ornament.

- 3) Be sure to smile and truly thank any people who help you when out shopping, such as cashiers and clerks. Service work is hard and rushed at this time of year

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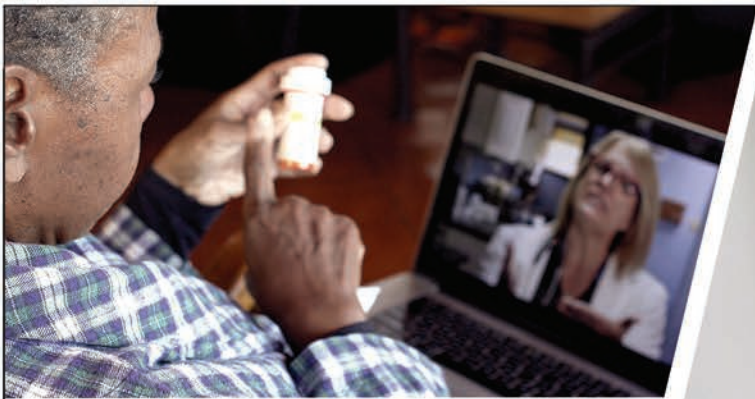
Parranda on Wheels Rolls Through Hartford!



Promesa De Reyes la Familia Diaz-Santana plays atop a float as it rolls down Park Street on Saturday, December 19. The event was organized by the Connecticut Institute for Community Development (CICD) Puerto Rican Parade, Inc. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a traditional Parranda with strolling musicians could not be held this year, so the rolling cravan was adopted as a safe alternative instead. At left are Sammy Vega and Juanita Crispin of the (CICD) Puerto Rican Parade, Inc. (Hart photos)



Hartford's Mexican-American community usually holds a procession to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The procession had to be cancelled this year. But a special mass was held on Sunday, December 13, at Saint Augustine Church with a flower-decorated statue up front and music from Mariachi Mexico Antiguo (including Saul Olivas, above, center) from the balcony in the rear. The Virgin of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego (statue at left) in Mexico in 1531. The Basilica raised in her honor in Mexico City is the most visited Catholic site in the world and the third most popular religious site in the world. (Hart photos)



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Santa Visits Hartford City Church

On Saturday, December 12, Hartford City Church held a toy give-away in the parking lot of the Ukrainian-American Home (UAH) on Wethersfield Avenue in Hartford's South End. Phillip Beatty, Pastor of Hartford City Church played Santa. He is shown here with Arjennis, Derrick, Sonny and Ryan. Hartford City Church holds its Sunday services at the UAH. To find out more, go to: <https://www.hartfordcitychurch.com/>. (Hart photo)

Access Health CT Extends 2021 Open Enrollment Period Through January 15

Access Health CT (AHCT) has announced an extension for the 2021 Annual Open Enrollment period until January 15, 2021 as a result of the current health crisis, providing more time for CT residents to get covered. The deadline was originally December 15.

If new customers sign up for health insurance plans through Access Health CT from now until January 15, 2021, their coverage will start February 1, 2021.

In addition, Access Health CT customers who enrolled in a plan for 2021 now have the option to keep it or find a new plan; however if they make a plan change during this extension period, the new plan will have a start date of February 1, 2021 and they must pay the January bill (premium) for the original plan.

"We understand this year has been an extremely difficult year with the COVID-19 pandemic," said Chief Executive Officer of AHCT, James Michel. "And we also know if 2020 has taught us anything, it's the value of our health. There is plenty to think about when choosing a health insurance plan and we want to make sure our customers are able to

pick the best plan for themselves and their families. We hope this extension providing extra time allows Connecticut residents to make sure they picked a quality, health insurance plan that fits their needs and gives them the best value in 2021."

Access Health CT will continue to offer free enrollment help to all Connecticut residents during the extension:

How To Enroll

- Online: AccessHealthCT.com (Live chat available)
- In-Person Enrollment (by appointment only): The Access Health In-Person Enrollment Center is located at 330 Market Street, just north of Downtown. Other in-person enrollment centers are located in Groton, Bridgeport, New Haven, New Britain and Stamford. For more information, go to: <https://learn.accesshealthct.com/findus/#inpersonenrollmentlocations>.
- Phone: 1-855-805-4325, Mon.

- Fri. 8 AM - 6 PM, Sat. 9 AM-3 PM
- With Certified Brokers or Enrollment Specialists in your community. Go to: <https://www.accesshealthct.com/AHCT/cthx/#/astSrch/assistSearch>
- At a time that works for you at a Virtual Enrollment Fair*, more information here: <https://learn.accesshealthct.com/findus/#virtualenrollment>

Hartford News/Hartford Chamber of Commerce 2020 Hartford Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

Congratulations to all the winners of the first annual Hartford News/Hartford Chamber of Commerce Holiday decorating contest, and those who received honorable mentions. Winners were chosen from all sectors of the city (see below). Residential winners will receive a \$50 Gift Card to Super Stop & Shop. Businesses and organizations will get free advertising in the *Hartford News*. Thanks to everyone who spent time, effort and money on decorating their homes to make our community a little brighter for everyone.



Vista Alegre Restaurant, 556 Franklin Avenue

RESIDENTIAL	BUSINESS/ ORGANIZATION
North 322 Vine Street <i>Honorable Mention:</i> 145 Blue Hills Avenue 104 Hartland Street	North Hartford Enterprise Zone Business Association (HEZBA)
Central 332 Saybrooke Street <i>Honorable Mention:</i> 1414 Asylum Avenue 153 Kenyon Street	Central Immanuel House, 15 Woodland Street
South 292 South Street <i>Honorable Mention:</i> 396 Campfield Avenue 48 Fenwick Street	South Vista Alegre Restaurant, 556 Franklin Avenue
Downtown 87 Hungerford Street	Downtown J's Restaurant, 297 Washington Street

Library Receives Roberts Foundation “Creation of New Work” Award

Hartford Public Library was awarded \$20,000 by the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation through its “Creation of New Work” program to support the development of a sculpted piece by artist Marilyn Parkinson Thrall. When completed in late 2021, the sculpture will be on permanent display in the Library’s Hartford History Center (HHC).

The Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation is a private, special purpose foundation founded in 1964 by Ned and Sunny Roberts. The foundation is dedicated to supporting and encourag-

ing excellence in the arts throughout the Capital Region.

"The Roberts Foundation established the Creation of New Work grant in 2003 to encourage excellence in the arts by fostering collaborations between artists and arts organizations in the Greater Hartford area," said Lisa Curran, Executive Director. "For 2020, we wanted to celebrate the Year of the Woman and the 100th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment by showcasing the work of a local female artist. Hartford Public Library's excep-

Continued on page 7

Asylum Hill
Congregational
Church

Christmas Eve &
Christmas Day

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THOSE
WHO
DREAM

All links on www.ahcc.org/calendar

Thursday, December 24 • Christmas Eve

4:30pm Live Nativity (weather permitting); live-streamed

8:00pm Pre-recorded candlelight service on YouTube

11:30pm In-person outdoor candlelit service

Friday, December 25 • Christmas Day

10:30am A Zoom prayer service of Scripture, prayer, and song

Library Gets Grant for Sculpture

Continued from page 5

tional proposal gave us the opportunity to support Marilyn Parkinson Thrall's incomparable talent as well as fund an art piece that will embody a pivotal episode in Hartford's history."

Thrall will create a three-dimensional dress depicting the popular design of the early 19th century suffragette era. The base of the dress will be encircled with period hats - symbolic of the women who ran for office in 1920, figuratively throwing their hats into the political arena. The sash will be marked with the City of Hartford crest and the skirt will be made of fabric, with fabric printed voter registration cards stitched together to form a cascade of local names. The Greater Hartford artist will work closely with Hartford History Center staff in selecting and digitizing the cards and in authenticating the elements within the sculpture.

"I have always been interested in visual perceptions and how they relate and connect us in a society. As an artist, I often use the dress as a metaphor with the idea that it is used as a symbol for something else... Clothing has the ability to reflect a sense of self and an image to present to the world. In researching the history of suffragettes and their struggle to gain the right to vote, I found a direct correlation to the idea of the dress metaphor. They realized the power of change through perception."

The proposed artwork will give voice to the many Hartford women

who, despite barriers, registered to vote in this city in October 1920. Through Hartford's Voter Registration Records, the public is introduced to a diverse contingent of civic-minded women - whether single, married or widowed; Jewish or Christian; black or white; housewives, stenographers, undertakers; native born or foreign-born - who took advantage of this long-fought opportunity to register to vote.

The HHC houses a remarkable record of Hartford's public history including the Town and City Clerk Archives dating from 1639 through 1970, the records of the Hartford City Parks Commission from the 1850s through the present, and Hartford's voter registration records from the 1840s through the 2000s. Taken together these three huge collections contain a wealth of information about Hartford and its citizens, reflecting the city's rapid growth and its increasing diversity.

"It is our contention that all history is local and all stories relevant. This artwork hones that point. With a sculpture that draws on the intimacy of apparel adorned by the names of women seldom recorded, it personalizes the struggle to pass the 19th Amendment and emphasizes the critical role we all play in our democratic process," said Brenda Miller, HPL's Executive Director, Culture and Communications.

For more information about the Hartford History Center, visit https://hplct.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/history/ For more information about Hartford Public Library, visit hplct.org.

Capital Community College Awarded \$149,426 NEH Grant to Study History of Talcott Street Church and School

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded a \$149,426 grant to Capital Community College (CCC) to focus on the history and people of Hartford's historic Talcott Street Church and Black School.

The Humanities Initiative award, part of Capital's Hartford Heritage Project (HHP), will support place-based learning in Black history for students at the college and Capital Preparatory Magnet School (Capital Prep) in partnership with nearby museums. It is one of 21 NEH Humanities Initiatives grants nationwide that will advance curricular innovations and enhance educational resources at colleges and universities.

Professor Jeffrey Partridge, Ph.D., Chair of Humanities and Director of the Hartford Heritage Project will lead the project, which will develop 12 courses at Capital Community College and three subjects at Capital Prep. An exhibition is planned to support pedagogy and commemorate the historic site of the church. The grant will support the inauguration of an annual public lecture called The Pennington Lecture, named after Talcott Church pastor James W.C. Pennington and themed on understanding race issues through the lens of the humanities.

Talcott Street Congregational Church was built on the corner of Talcott and Market Streets in 1826 where today the dilapidated Talcott Parking Garage, now slated for demolition, stands. The site is next door to the CCC campus that has been housed in the transformed former G. Fox & Company building since 2002.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Pennington in the 19th century, the church actively participated in the Amistad Trial, which took place just three blocks away in the Old State House, by befriending and raising money for the African captives, according to Professor Partridge.

"Pennington's biographer claims

that in certain periods of his tenure at the church, fugitives from enslavement escaping from the south on the Underground Railroad came to the doors of Talcott church daily, doors that are now largely forgotten," said Partridge. "This project aims to change that unfortunate fact and turn this site into a place of remembrance and inspiration."

The activities funded by the grant were inspired by three Capital students and a student from Trinity College who worked in the Liberal Arts Action Lab (Action Lab) in the Spring 2020 semester with Partridge. The student team created a digital exhibition on the Talcott church and school that led to the plan for new courses, an exhibit, and an annual Pennington Lecture. The Action Lab is an educational partnership between Capital Community College and Trinity College established to strengthen the city and its role in the region, spark social innovation, and support civic engagement and sustainability.

The grant was developed in response to heightened concern on campus over Black Lives Matter protests last spring and the killings of George Floyd and Breanna Taylor which led to a June virtual convocation on how to address institutionalized racism and injustice impacting CCC students and community, according to Capital CEO Dr. G. Duncan Harris.

Harris praised Partridge and community partners, including Faith Congregational Church which is a descendant of the Talcott Street Church, for helping to empower students through an understanding of Black history in Hartford.

"Capital Community College and its Humanities division have been widely recognized for place-based learning over the last decade through the Hartford Heritage Project," Harris said. "The exhibit and Black History project will further enhance the humanities curricula with content that will inform and inspire our



Talcott Street Church stood at the corner of Talcott and Market Streets in Downtown Hartford for 128 years. Under the leadership of Rev. James W.C. Pennington, the church took on a leadership role in America's black community in the years before the Civil War.

diverse student population."

Hartford Heritage Project partners also expressed support for the new Black history initiative.

"Capital Community College's Hartford Heritage Project leads in the effort to tell stories that don't often get told, particularly of the histories around communities of color in the city of Hartford," said Brenda Miller, executive director for culture and communications at Hartford Public Library. "This recent NEH award is so well deserved."

"Trinity College and the Liberal Arts Action Lab are excited to see this project come to fruition, in order to recognize and share the local and national significance of Hartford's vibrant Black history. Abigail Williamson, Charles A. Dana Research Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy. Williamson is Director of the Center for Hartford Engagement and Research (CHER) at Trinity College.

CITY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The second semi-annual installment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2019, are due and payable on January 1, 2021. Executive Order No. 9R extends this due date deadline to April 1, 2021. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that have previously attested to, or documented, significant economic impact by COVID-19 or that they previously attested to providing commensurate relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Failure to pay any tax due January 1, 2021, on or before April 1, 2021, will cause the tax to become delinquent and subject to interest from the original due date of January 1, 2020, at the rate of 1 1/2 % per full or partial month. Any delinquent tax is subject to a minimum interest charge of two dollars (\$2.00).

Since failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or, in the event of delinquency, respective penalties, taxpayers who do not receive a bill by the end of the first full week of January should request a duplicate from the Division of Assessment and Collections.

Payments may be mailed to the address on the bills. Payments may also be made online at www.hartfordct.gov/tax or in the drop box located outside the Office of the Tax Collector, 550 Main Street, Room 106, Hartford, Connecticut, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and excluding holidays. Payments may also be made in person at the address above. Tax Office hours are subject to change during the current health emergency.

NANCY RAICH, CCMC
Tax Collector
City of Hartford

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Rosie McMullen Crane (20-01149)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 18, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas
Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Elizabeth Sullivan
c/o Michael A Peck
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\$800,000 in Grants for Hartford Small Businesses

On Thursday, December 10, the City of Hartford, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Capital for Change, and HEDCO, Inc., announced that the City and the Hartford Foundation are funding \$800,000 in new grants to Hartford small businesses.

Earlier this year, those partners along with Bank of America and Travelers launched a \$1.25 million Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program, which helped 161 small businesses make lease or mortgage payments, pay salaries, invest in pandemic preparedness, and more. Seventy-two percent of businesses were owned by people of color and forty-eight percent of businesses were owned by women. This \$800,000 will go to businesses that applied for the first round of grants, but did not receive them either because their applications were incomplete or funding ran out. Mayor Luke Bronin also announced that the City will be sponsoring a third round of small business grants in the new year with \$750,000 and is seeking partners to expand that funding.

“Small businesses employ our residents and are vital to the economic health and vitality of our community, and this new round of funding will help approximately one hundred more small business in this difficult time — with another round of grants coming in the

new year,” said Mayor Luke Bronin. “We hope these grants, which are between \$5,000 and \$10,000 each, will make a difference for Hartford businesses — but we also know that many small and medium-sized businesses need much more support. The federal government has been AWOL for months as small businesses across America face extinction, and we desperately need the federal government to step up. I’m hopeful that the state will be able to get additional grants out the door soon, especially for restaurants, which have been among the hardest hit. In the meantime, we will continue to do everything we can at the local level, and I am deeply grateful to Jay Williams and the Hartford Foundation, to Capital for Change, to SAMA and HEDCO, and to all of the partners who are essential parts of our effort to help keep Hartford’s small businesses alive.”

Hartford Foundation dollars will be allocated entirely to small businesses owned by persons of color and/or women, or businesses located in low-income neighborhoods in Hartford. This effort supports the Foundation’s strategic outcomes to support employment and wealth-building opportunities for persons of color and increase investment in Hartford neighborhoods. The Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant

Program was created to support small businesses that may have difficulty obtaining funding from other federal or state initiatives.

“Many small businesses in Hartford have already sustained large revenue losses since the beginning of the pandemic due to closures, decreased capacity and less traffic in the City,” said Hartford Foundation President Jay Williams. “While we continue to wait for Congress to enact another relief package, small business owners are facing a second wave of COVID-19 which will continue to place significant burdens on their businesses. We know that small businesses owned by women and people of color face particular challenges and often lack the capital they need to survive. We are pleased to be able to once again partner with the City of Hartford and other stakeholders to provide these businesses with a lifeline of support.”

“As a selected Technical Assistance Provider we are proud to partner with The City of Hartford, Capital for Change, and the Hartford Foundation to implement the Emergency Small Business Program,” said Fernando G. Rosa, President and CEO of HEDCO, Inc., and Kim Hawkins, Vice President and COO of HEDCO, Inc. “This is sorely needed aid and we are pleased to be a part of the effort.”

New Leadership at GHAAA

Continued from page 1

Mohammad, retiree from the City of Hartford.

- **Chaplin:** Jennifer Little-Greer, Executive Director, The Minority Construction Council, Inc.

Following his election, McCauley said, “Hartford has faced its share of trials this year and the challenges facing African Americans, in particular, have been overwhelming at times. But yet today I remain inspired and excited to work with the new leadership team for the Greater Hartford African American Alliance. On December 12, the members elected a new slate of officers, and in doing so voted for a vision of repairing, reckoning, reinventing and recommitting to a beloved community. They’re people just like you who also care about reviving community consensus around an agenda that builds on the strength of our community and works in unity to seek specific resolutions that create meaningful change. I’m grateful for the faith and confidence the membership put forward in shaping this leadership team.

McCauley also invited all greater Hartford residents to learn more about the organization by going to their website: www.ghafricanamericanalliance.com.

The African American Alliance of Greater Hartford is an unincor-

porated, nonpartisan alliance of individuals and organizations joined together to share information, design strategies, and advocate for actions that benefit the African American communities within the Greater Hartford area. The group’s goal is to enhance the spiritual, social, cultural, political, educational, health, and economic experiences of African Americans within the Greater Hartford area. The GHAAA provide a forum for open dialogue regarding current issues and events of greater interest to the African American community within the Greater Hartford area. This forum is used to identify key priorities in a community agenda for planning purposes.

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Large well maintained 3 bedroom apartments, 1st & 2nd floor, quiet building. Cold flat \$900 monthly. 1 month security 1 month rent. Section 8 Welcome. Call 860-882-3650.

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Hartford South End

1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Appliances included. Parking. Call John 860-805-4111.

Hartford: 26 Lawrence St.

1 & 2 BR for rent. Heat & hot water, stove & refrigerator included. 3rd floor. Excellent condition. Section 8 accepted. Call 860-983-5939.

For Sale by Owner

Three-story building. Lot is 5,700 sq. ft. Built in 1910. 3,600 sq. ft. residential space. One commercial unit. \$4,600 per month collective rent. Call 718-614-6752.

Apartment for Rent

3 BR, 1 bathroom. Laundry hook-ups, back porch. Section 8 accepted. 451 Washington Street, Hartford. \$1,150/month plus 2 month deposit. Call 718-614-6752.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a spacious 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975-\$850 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

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El Informativo Latino

Primeros residentes de asilo y empleados de Connecticut reciben vacuna de covic-19

Personal y los residentes de hogares de ancianos se encuentran entre las primeras personas en Connecticut en ser elegibles para la vacuna contra el coronavirus y el gobernador estará en un hogar de ancianos en West Hartford el viernes por la mañana mientras el personal y los residentes reciben las primeras dosis. El gobernador Ned Lamont ofrecerá una conferencia de prensa en The Reservoir en West Hartford a las 10 a.m. para anunciar

el lanzamiento del programa de vacunación COVID-19 en hogares de ancianos de Connecticut. En virtud de una iniciativa estatal-federal conjunta que involucra a Connecticut y otros tres estados, hasta cinco hogares de ancianos podrían comenzar a vacunar al personal y a los residentes antes de lo previsto por el estado para el 21 de diciembre en las instalaciones de atención a largo plazo. *By Iris Rodriguez*



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En el nuevo libro de Navidad de Puerto Rico, 'Jibarito' transmite valores, tradiciones del Día de los Reyes Magos

Elf on the Shelf ahora tiene un amigo para dar la bienvenida a la temporada navideña. Su nombre es Jibarito. Las familias puertorriqueñas en Hartford y en todo el mundo están abrazando al simpático pequeño y el libro que cuenta su historia de Navidad. “Jibarito de la Cajita” fue publicado por Víctor y Merari Febus, una pareja puertorriqueña.



“Estábamos pensando en la tradición del jibaro, que significa paisano. Es parte de la tradición puertorriqueña. Cada puertorriqueño tiene un jibaro adentro”, dijo Febus. “Pensamos en eso, y vimos al elfo, y dijimos OK, ¿por qué no hacemos algo parecido a eso, un jibarito?” *By Iris Rodríguez*

El coronavirus ha detenido un sinnúmero de actividades, festivales y fiestas familiares

Esta Navidad será atípica, pero hay formar seguras de disfrutarla

El acelerado aumento de contagios por COVID-19 en el mes de noviembre, aunado a los casos que pudieran presentarse por otras enfermedades respiratorias llevarán a que la Navidad del año 2020 se muy distinta a todas, ya que las grandes celebraciones tendrán que esperar y las reuniones serán solo con el primer círculo familiar. En esta época del año, tenemos algunas cosas en nuestra contra, incluyendo el comienzo de la temporada de la influenza. Los expertos médicos dijeron que estarán especialmente atentos a los próximos meses, ya que es la primera vez que lidiamos con la pandemia de coronavirus mientras se acercan las vacaciones de invierno y esto puede impactar en más casos para el cierre del año y el inicio del próximo. Aunque el mejor consejo que pueden ofrecer es celebrar juntos a través de la tecnología, los profesionales de la salud entienden que no todos lo cumplirán, por lo que compartieron algunos consejos sobre realizar reuniones más seguras en medio de la pandemia. Mientras planificas las festividades, no solo es importante observar tus propios hábitos, sino también prestar mucha atención a las personas con las que pasarás las estas para ver si también se mantienen a salvo. Las opciones de bajo riesgo incluyen celebrar las estas en un grupo pequeño y llevar las festividades al aire libre. La Navidad es una época para dar amor y el amor, en nuestra situación actual, se traduce en cuidarnos y en cuidar a los demás. Que estas estas no te hagan olvidar cuál es el objetivo principal del confinamiento Si no sabes muy bien cómo celebrar estas fechas, aquí te damos algunas opciones para festejar. Primero que nada no pierdas de vista el objetivo del confinamiento: se trata de un sacrificio para protegernos y, sobre todo, proteger a los demás. La llegada de la Navidad no debe desvirtuar este objetivo superlativo. ¿Acaso la Navidad no es una

época de dar amor y acaso el amor no se traduce en cuidar a los demás y cuidarnos? La psicóloga Erin C. Westgate, de la Universidad de Florida, advierte al respecto: “Crear recordatorios sencillos, como una nota en el refrigerador o una meditación matutina, puede ayudarnos a mantener el panorama general a la vista: quedarnos en casa es un sacrificio que estamos haciendo activamente por el bien de los demás”. **Considere Las Personas Y Los Lugares** Si vas a realizar una visita o vas a ser anfitrión, toma en cuenta a las personas ¿Son población de riesgo? ¿Han estado expuestos a factores de riesgo? Pide a tus invitados (y hazlo tú mismo) que generen un protocolo dos semanas antes de la reunión. Tomen y registren su temperatura diario, no convivan en esos días con más personas que las de sus círculos cercanos, de ser necesario aislen- se por completo. Al menor síntoma comuníqueno. Sobre los espacios el portal UNOTV recomienda que sean espacios abiertos en donde se tomen las medidas necesarias: tomar temperatura, gel antibacterial y tapete sanitizante. Elijan un espacio cercano, la casa de alguien, preferentemente. También el portal recomienda que se vacunen contra la influenza, porque fortalecerá su sistema inmunológico. Si ya decidiste acudir a la casa particular de alguien o prestar la tuya, considere que ese espacio será un búnker. Organícense con sus invitados para que sea una sola la persona que se encargue de la cocina. O bien, que cada invitado lleve sus propios alimentos. Para la preparación de los alimentos puede pedir los ingredientes a domicilio para evitar salir de casa y exponerse a los contagios. Una vez durante la comida o cena, puedes emplear platos y cubiertos desechables, de tal suerte que puedas deshacerte de ellos una vez que los haya usado.

Los casos de COVID-19 están subiendo en Connecticut. Busque dónde hacerse la prueba en ct.gov/coronavirus



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